
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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AUDIT REPORT — CITY OF RICHLAND

Special Investigation. On March 23, 2018, the Auditor of State released a report of a special investigation of the City of Richland for the period of August 20, 2007, through September 30, 2016. The investigation resulted from concerns about certain credit card purchases made by the former City Clerk, Chris Thomann.

Findings. The special investigation of the City of Richland identified \$57,990 in improper and unsupported disbursements and estimated undeposited collections. Included in that amount is \$11,703 in improper disbursements, including purchases made on the City's credit cards issued to Ms. Thomann and improper payroll costs.

Also included in the total is \$2,287 in unsupported disbursements for purchases charged to the City's credit cards issued to Ms. Thomann and \$44,000 in estimated undeposited cash collections for utility billings.

Recommendations. The report makes recommendations to strengthen the City's internal controls, including better segregation of duties; performing independent review of utility billings, collections, and delinquencies; maintaining proper supporting documentation; and ensuring timely approval and payment of obligations.

The full report can be found on the Auditor of State's website [here](#).

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